

## Activity 3: My Career Clusters

**Target Audience:** Grades 7-12

**Objective:** Students will:

- Complete an interest assessment to determine their top career cluster.
- Explore related career options.

ASCA Standard	National Career Development Goal	National Career Development Guidelines
<b>Career Development Standard A:</b> Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.	<b>Career Management Goal 3:</b> Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information during career planning and management.	<b>CM3.K4:</b> Identify several ways to classify occupations. <b>CM3.A4:</b> Give examples of how occupational classification systems can be used in career planning. <b>CM3.R4:</b> Assess which occupational classification system is most helpful to your career planning.

**Resources and Materials:**

- Career Outlook, Career Clusters Interest Survey, pages 6-7
- Career Outlook, Career Outlook Occupational Section, pages 14-49

**Leading Questions and/or Comments:**

This is an informal approach to the Career Clusters. Though much time has been invested in assuring that this survey is a reliable checklist, it should be used as an introduction and not as a valid, reliable assessment tool. Ask/state the following:

- With so many careers and occupations available today, how do you determine where to start your search?
- Career Clusters are groupings of occupations used as an organizing tool for curriculum design.

**Activities:**

Instruct students to do the following:

- Complete the Career Cluster Interest Survey, pages 6-7 of the Career Outlook.
- Draw their attention to the instructions at the top of each column
  - In the first column, check the activities that describe what you like to do
  - In the second column, check the personal qualities that describe you
  - In the 3<sup>rd</sup> column, check the school subjects you like
- Complete all sixteen boxes and add them up, putting your total in the last column. The top three highest totals will tell you your top 3 clusters. The highest total will be your #1 cluster, the second highest #2 and the third highest #3. Write the totals in the spaces provided in the career cluster chart at the bottom of the page. Circle or highlight your top choice(s).
- Your top clusters will give you a grouping of occupations that are closely related to your personal preferences and interests.
- If your scores are even or close, explore both clusters to see if one seems like a better fit than the other.
- Find out more about your clusters on pages 14-49 of the Career Outlook. Read the descriptions at the top of the pages and look over the occupations listed in your top 3 clusters.

**Making Connections for Students:**

Say to the students:

- Now that you have determined your top 3 clusters, especially your top cluster, it becomes much easier to look and search for occupations that are the most closely related to your personal preferences and interests.

**Optional Activities:**

Explore more careers at [www.RUReady.ND.gov](http://www.RUReady.ND.gov) and [www.careertech.org/career-clusters](http://www.careertech.org/career-clusters).